

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 213.—VOLUME XX. [NEW SERIES]

NOVEMBER, 1935

PRICE 6d. MONTHLY.  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN.]

## Broadcast Talks and the Blind

AT a Reunion a little while ago our Chairman, Captain Sir Ian Fraser, gave some advice to the men present on listening to broadcasting which seemed to be of such general interest that it is worth while passing it on to readers of the REVIEW. He pointed out that a single talk listened to casually and perhaps by accident might be interesting in itself, but that there was a greatly added interest and decidedly more pleasure in following consistently a series of talks. The pleasure of listening to, say, six talks of a series was much more than six times the pleasure of listening to six separate talks because of the continued element of interest running through the whole.

Any blind man, he went on, who seeks to lead a normal life as we all try to do, must be well informed, and there was no end of interest and of education in its widest sense which could be afforded by the many and varied series of talks broadcast by the B.B.C. There were, for example, weekly talks on subjects as widely different as foreign affairs and gardening; travel and the theatre; fiction and the home; the cinema and farming; music and sport. In addition there were special series of broadcast talks which were of the utmost interest.

The comprehensive series of political broadcasts during the recent election will still be remembered with interest.

The B.B.C.'s list of special talks from now until the end of the year was issued a little time ago. It includes a series every Friday evening under the title of "Young Ideas," which is made up of a series of half-hour talks on such different subjects as jobs, hiking, science, railways, motor cars, law, speed, animals, aeroplanes, detectives, and "spooks." These particular talks are intended primarily for young people but should be of interest to many grown-up listeners as well. On Monday mornings throughout these months there are talks on domestic economics, on Tuesday mornings a series of talks for the housewife. On Wednesday mornings there are talks on "Careers" and on Thursday mornings a series called, "At Home To-day." On Saturday mornings during the Parliamentary Session there are morning talks on "The Week in Westminster," while travel talks will take their place on the remaining Saturdays. On Tuesday afternoons there is a series of talks for the benefit of unemployed listeners.

The late evening talks are especially comprehensive and include on Tuesdays a series, "Plans for To-morrow," which is described as "Eyewitness Accounts of Great Experiments." On Fridays at ten o'clock a series, "I knew a Man," is made up of descriptions of well-known men of the past described by well-known men of the present who knew them. From November 23rd until the end of the year there are to be talks on "European Exchanges," when it is hoped to secure speakers from France, Denmark, Russia, Austria, Italy, and Turkey. Talks on religion have also been arranged throughout the season.

It is of interest that for some years now the National Institute for the Blind has been publishing Braille editions of the B.B.C. pamphlets issued in connection with their talks.

Prominent among these are the pamphlets issued in connection with the foreign language courses and among others still available in Braille are "The New Christendom," "The Way to God," "What are Saints?" "The King's English," "The Law of the Land," "Britain and the Modern World Order," "Our Debt to the Past," "How the Mind Works," "The Mind and its Workings," "Some Makers of the Modern Spirit," "God and the World through Christian Eyes," "Points of View," "More Points of View," and "Wireless Discussion Groups." Details of further such pamphlets available in Braille can be found in the Announcement Supplement to the National Institute's Braille magazines, and in the "New Beacon."

Advance proofs of these broadcast talks are provided for the National Institute for the Blind by the B.B.C. and the Institute is thus able to publish the embossed editions before the date on which the series is due to begin. The circulation of the Braille "Radio Times," it is interesting to note, is stated to be now about 3,000 copies a week.

Wireless does in these days play such an important part in a blind man's life that it is worth while to make a regular practice of listening in order to get better acquainted with the boundless educational opportunities offered by it. Not only does listening to these talks improve the mind but what is perhaps just as important it fills in leisure hours which might otherwise seem long; furthermore, it gives the listener something to talk about in general conversation. The Silver Jubilee broadcasts proved what a boon the wireless could be on a special occasion; these talks, if listened to consistently and seriously, should prove what a boon it may be everyday throughout the year.

### Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

THE Memorial Service this year will be held at St. George's Church, Kemp Town, Brighton, at 3.15 on the afternoon of Monday, 9th December. Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Sir Neville Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, and others will attend, and all at the Brighton Annexe will join in the service. Any blinded soldiers living in Brighton and Hove or the immediate neighbourhood are cordially invited to attend the service at St. George's Church.

As usual a deputation of St. Dunstaners will proceed to Hampstead from Headquarters on the morning of the 9th December to lay a wreath on Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than 1s. towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew at Headquarters.

### The Ypres League

THE Ypres League once again invited a party of our men to their annual Smoking Concert at Caxton Hall on Saturday, October 26th, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. On Sunday, October 27th, a party of St. Dunstaners attended the annual Ypres League memorial service at the Horse Guards Parade, afterwards marching with representatives of other ex-servicemen's movements to the Cenotaph where H.R.H. Princess Beatrice placed a wreath in memory of those who fell in the Ypres Sector.

### Concession to Disabled Ex-Servicemen

IN response to a question from our Chairman, Captain Sir Ian Fraser, an important concession to disabled ex-servicemen was announced in the House of Commons on October 22nd by Mr. Robert Hudson, the Minister of Pensions.

It has long been a grievance that, although a disabled man who was at work before he was admitted to a Ministry hospital received an allowance to make up his loss of income, a man who had for long been unemployed when he was admitted to hospital received no such allowance. Owing to the loss of his allowance from the Unemployment Assistance Board, or, in some cases, his unemployment benefit, his family had usually to apply to the Public Assistance Committee for relief.

Under the concession announced by Mr. Hudson, families of men who were in receipt of benefit or allowance under the Unemployment Acts before going into a Ministry hospital will in future not suffer financial loss. A supplementary allowance will be paid by the Ministry, substantially making good loss of income from State sources. The man, of course, will continue to receive his ordinary rate of pension.

The London Ophthalmic Hospital was the "Week's Good Cause" on Sunday, October 20th, and the broadcast appeal was made by Sir Ian Fraser.

### St. Dunstaners' Gift to H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester

H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester has accepted a gift of a nest of trays and a wool rug from the two thousand war-blinded men of St. Dunstan's on the occasion of his marriage to Lady Alice Scott.

Mr. Askew has received the following letter from His Royal Highness:—

5th November 1935.

DEAR MR. ASKEW,—Lady Alice and I wish to offer to you and to all the members of St. Dunstan's our sincere thanks for your kind present to us on the occasion of our marriage.

We think that the nest of trays and the wool rug are most beautifully made and we very much appreciate the kind thought which has prompted this gift.—Yours truly,

(Signed) HENRY.

### St. Dunstan's Singers to Broadcast Again

THE St. Dunstan's Singers are to broadcast again. They will be heard on the London Regional programme on Sunday, November 24th, and will give items during the B.B.C. Military Band Concert from 4.30 until 5.50 p.m.

Their programme will be as follows:

#### PART 1.

Drake's Drum—*Stanford.*

The Lincolnshire Poacher—*I. R. Davies.*

O, wert thou in the cauld blast—

*Mendelssohn.*

Rolling down to Rio—*German.*

#### PART 2.

The Viking Song—*Coleridge-Taylor.*

Breathe soft, ye winds—*Paxton, arr.*

*Walford Davies.*

Lantido Dilly—*Frank Bridge.*

Here's a health unto his Majesty—

*J. Saville.*

### Armistice Day, 1935.

ST. DUNSTAN'S was again represented in the impressive Armistice Day parade at the Cenotaph on the morning of November 11th. Headed by Captain Sir Ian Fraser, a party of St. Dunstaners marched from Wellington Barracks to Whitehall, where Sir Ian placed a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of the war-blinded men of the Empire.

In the evening a number of St. Dunstaners attended the Remembrance Festival at the Royal Albert Hall.

### Miss Nelson

MISS P. Nelson, our Social Visitor in the Midland Area, left this country on the *Llandaff Castle* on October 31st on a six months' visit to her brother in Kenya.

During Miss Nelson's absence, her duties will be carried out by Mrs. Parkes, of Bole Hall, Tamworth, Staffs., already well-known to many St. Dunstaners through her activities at the Stratford-on-Avon Camp.

Miss Nelson will be back in England towards the end of May. While she is in Kenya her address will be: P.O. Lamuria, Narô Moro, Kenya Colony, British East Africa.

### Broadcast Play Competition

THE National Institute for the Blind has decided to run a Broadcast Play Competition, open to the blind throughout the world. Two prizes will be awarded—a first prize of £25, and a second prize of £15. Mr. Val Gielgud, Production Director of the British Broadcasting Corporation, has kindly consented to act as judge.

The object of the National Institute in running this competition is to encourage blind writers to attempt a literary form in which they should excel. Theoretically, the author best suited to write a broadcast play should be a blind person, because a blind person should be able naturally to understand the technique of drama dependent solely on sound, and produced for a listening and not a seeing audience.

The closing date of the competition is June 30th, 1936. The Editor of the REVIEW will be glad to send full particulars to any St. Dunstaner interested.

### Notes and News

J. W. Clare, of Brockenhurst, has been very busy lately framing about sixty Japanese prints for a Brockenhurst resident. The prints were very valuable and Clare is to be congratulated upon the way in which he carried out a very delicate commission.

J. J. Morgan, of Wantage, also carried out a big order recently. It was for twenty-two mats for the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr. A. T. Lloyd.

### Young St. Dunstaners

**F**RANK JONES, the son of C. F. Jones, of Wrexham, has won a scholarship for Denbigh County School. Not long ago he was selected from among one hundred and fifty choir boys to sing a solo at the Ruthin Church Children's Festival.

Leslie, the son of J. Straughton, of Workington, who last year secured a first-class pass in his primary pianoforte examination, has now won a similar first-class pass in the elementary stage.

H. Kidger's youngest daughter has been awarded a place at Bridgnorth Grammar School which will enable her to stay there for the next five years. She is his second daughter to have this success.

Brenda, the daughter of G. J. Smith, of Leicester, has won a Junior Scholarship at the College of Arts and Technology, Leicester.

Irene Richards, the daughter of G. H. Richards, of Manchester, has gained a scholarship for the Central Girls' High School, Manchester.

The younger daughter of W. Newland, of Hever, has been awarded a scholarship to the Technical College, Tunbridge Wells.

T. J. Floyd's eldest son, John, has gained a free place at Teignmouth Grammar School. He is just eleven.

Edward Brooks, the son of E. Brooks, of Mossley, Manchester, has won a scholarship to the Ashton Technical School and has also been awarded a gold medal by the Education Committee for regular attendances at his present school.

A. Palfrey's youngest daughter, Doris, has been awarded a scholarship which enables her to attend Barry County School for four years.

Clifford Bond, son of F. V. Bond, of Bath, is Pack Leader of the W.M.C.A. Wolf Cubs, 1st Bath Troop, and has

recently won the "Dando Cup" for the highest aggregate of points for all classes of sport.

Ethel Jones, who is the daughter of Vere Jones, of Northwich, has passed the London College of Music examinations for both the primary and elementary grades of the piano. She is only twelve.

We see from the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* that Pat Mulvaney, the 15-year-old daughter of M. Mulvaney, of Whitley Bay, is to compete in the Northumberland and Durham juvenile clog dancing championship. Only one other girl will compete.

The two sons of P. Brelsford, of Bournemouth, are now both Patrol Leaders in the Boy Scouts, and the eldest boy has just secured a job.

### St. Dunstan's Clock Goes Home

**A**FTER standing for more than a century in the grounds of "St. Dunstan's" on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park, the house from which our organisation took its name, St. Dunstan's Clock has at last been restored to its original position outside the church of St. Dunstan's in the West, in Fleet Street.

The house in Regent's Park has lately been purchased by Lord Rothermere, and through his kindness the clock has gone back to its old home. Lord Rothermere's brother, Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, unveiled the Clock on October 24th. "In the course of a service inside the church," says the *Daily Mail*, "Mr. Harmsworth recalled the fact that it was at St. Dunstan's that great numbers of gallant men blinded in the War found a home; and the name given by the clock to the house had become universally known in connection with one of the most remarkable and benevolent of post-war charities."

### Apartments

**DAGENHAM.** Mrs. Stuart, the widow of our St. Dunstaner, "Billy" Stuart, has a very comfortable furnished room to let, with or without board. The house is very convenient and there is a nice garden.—Apply Mrs. Stuart, 58 Comyns Road, Dagenham.

**SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.** Furnished apartments to let. Bed and breakfast, 2s. 6d. Near Bournemouth Park Road.—Apply M. H. Albertella, 102 Ruskin Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

## "In Memory"

Private RICHARD ROBINSON  
(Labour Battalion, Royal Engineers)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of this St. Dunstaner.

Although by no means a young man, Robinson enlisted in 1915, but some twelve months later his sight became so severely damaged as a result of his service that he was discharged.

He did not come under St. Dunstan's notice, however, until some time afterwards, and it was only in 1929 that we eventually arranged for him to come to Brighton. On account of his very bad health and his age it was not possible for him to do more than the very lightest work, but even up to a very short time before his death, he had carried on with his wool rug-making, and he made a point of doing so much work every day.

He died on October 13th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, of 4 Crescent Row, Sunderland, with whom he had lived for some considerable time, and was buried on October 16th at Bishop-Wearmouth Cemetery.

A wreath in the form of St. Dunstan's Badge was sent from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to Robinson's family.

Sergeant JOHN THORNTON  
(Rifle Brigade)

We deeply regret to announce the death of J. Thornton, of Camden Town.

Thornton was blinded in 1916 at Festubert by the discharge of a hand grenade, taken prisoner, and eventually repatriated. He came to St. Dunstan's, where he was trained as a basket-maker, at which occupation he worked most successfully until a few years ago when his health began to fail. During the past year or two he had been unable to do any work at all.

In spite of the most devoted care and attention of his wife and doctor, Thornton rapidly grew worse during the past few months, and his death, which took place on October 18th, was not unexpected.

The funeral took place on October 23rd, and was attended by many relatives and friends. There were a very large number of wreaths, including one from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Thornton leaves a widow, a son, and a daughter, to mourn his loss, and to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Private HENRY SIMS  
(1st Royal Fusiliers)

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of H. Sims, of Basingstoke. Sims was an old soldier, having seen service in South Africa and Mauritius. On the outbreak of the Great War he went with the Expeditionary Force to France where he gained the Mons medal. Later he was wounded and in 1915 was discharged from the Army. He was then admitted to St. Dunstan's, where he was trained in poultry farming and mat-making.

Unfortunately his health, which had not been good for some years, began to deteriorate, and he gradually grew worse. In due course, he had to give up both his poultry farming and mat-making activities. In October of this year he was taken seriously ill and died on the 12th.

The funeral was attended by members of the British Legion—some of whom acted as bearers. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and members of the Royal Antiquarian Order of Buffaloes and the Florence Lady Garvagh Lodge formed a Guard of Honour.

There were many beautiful wreaths, including one from Captain Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's. We extend our deep sympathy to his widow and family.

### Births

CHRISTIAN.—To the wife of W. Christian, of Douglas, Isle of Man, on October 29th, a son.

GROCCOTT.—To the wife of A. W. Grocott, of Hoddesdon, on November 3rd, a daughter—Beryl Maureen.

HOWARTH.—To the wife of W. J. Howarth, of Alton, on October 11th, a daughter. (See "Deaths").

READ.—To the wife of W. B. Read, of Woodbridge, on November 6th, a daughter.

### Marriage

SMITH; PINK.—On September 9th, 1935, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Brighton, by the Rev. Father Newton, Geoffrey Egan Smith, of Lincoln, to Doris M. Pink, of Brighton.

### Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy this month to the following:—

HOWARTH.—To W. J. Howarth, of Alton, and his wife, whose little daughter, born on October 11th, lived only two days.

MULLEN.—To J. Mullen, of Dublin, whose wife passed away on November 4th.

PATERSON.—To the wife of R. Paterson, of Thirsk, whose mother passed away on October 18th.

TOOTELL.—To Mrs. Tootell, of Preston, whose brother recently died after a long illness.

WALDIN.—To J. T. Waldin, of Winchester, who has just lost his mother.

### News from Overseas

J. T. SCRYMGEOUR, of Warwick, Queensland, who is a noted cattle-breeder, and one of the best judges in Australia, was a successful competitor at Queensland's Royal National Jubilee Show held in Brisbane in August.

His little daughter, Patricia, was awarded a first prize and two seconds for riding at the same show.

Our congratulations to them both.

### National Laying Test

REPORT for the final period of four weeks, August 19th to September 15th.

Position.	Name.	Test score value.
1	Chaffin, A. ...	1,240
2	Carpenter, E. H. ...	1,149
3	McLaren, D. ...	1,132
4	Pink, A. ...	1,123
5	Webb, W. ...	1,110
6	Hamilton, B. ...	1,054
7	Yates, H. W. ...	1,032
8	Jarvis, A. ...	1,004
9	Yates, H. W. ...	981
10	Peach, C. W. ...	976
11	Brown, M. Watson ...	972
12	Hammett, H. A. ...	970
13	Hill, R. E. ...	930
14	McAvoy, John ...	913
15	Campbell, John ...	909
16	Powell, G. ...	858
16	Stock, C. H. ...	858
16	Carpenter, E. H. ...	858
19	Watson, W. W. ...	799
20	Sutton, A. W. ...	764
21	Knopp, H. A. ...	760
22	Brown, C. H. ...	735
23	Smith, W. Alan ...	646
24	Jackson, G. C. ...	606
25	Fisher, T. M. ...	595
26	Benning, A. ...	566
27	Holmes, P. ...	560
28	Holmes, Percy ...	545
29	McIntosh, Charles ...	327
30	James, G. ...	322
31	Goodley, H. F. ...	300
32	Woodcock, W. J. ...	176

### Congratulations

to G. Jackson, of Ashford, who was placed second with a pen of White Wyandottes at Robson's Laying Trials. There were no fewer than 287 pens of birds entered in the Trials, and 75 in Jackson's own particular section. Not only was he second in this section but he was also placed third in the whole test.

### A Village of War-Blinded Men

WE take the following from the *London Evening News*:

Every husband in the model village of Vetrenik, only two hours' journey from Belgrade, is blind, but their wives are among the prettiest in Jugo-Slavia, and the children are happy, handsome and healthy.

The husbands are men blinded in the Great War, says a British United Press correspondent from Belgrade, and the model village was founded to enable them to work on the land and become self-supporting. Each man has a cottage, with land, livestock and the necessary tools to enable him to work as a farmer with a guaranteed market for his produce.

Dr. Velyko Ramadanovich, head of King Alexander's Institute for the Blind, was responsible for the founding of the village. He and his wife, known as "father and mother" to the villagers, found the men wives by advertising for girls to help the war-blinded veterans.

"We needed 30 wives," said Dr. Ramadanovich, "but we had applications from more than 60 girls."

"There was no personal choice in the matter. We said to the man, 'Here is a good wife for you,' and to the girl, 'Here is your husband,' and they were married forthwith."

"All the marriages turned out happily. Every marriage took place in our own chapel, and I gave the brides away and was best man for the bridegrooms. Each bride had a gown and a bouquet presented to her, and the bridegroom was presented with a new rig-out for the occasion, down to a carnation for his buttonhole."

### Letter to the Editor

The Editor,  
ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from a very enjoyable holiday in Exeter. During my stay in that delightful old city, I had the privilege of meeting most of the St. Dunstaners living there, as well as others living in different parts of the county.

The hearty welcome accorded to me when I mentioned St. Dunstan's, the kindly messages of remembrance sent to different members of the staff, the warmth with which they spoke of the personnel of St. Dunstan's past and present, all show that as the years drift on there is no weakening of the bond between St. Dunstan's and its sons.

I would like through the medium of the REVIEW to convey to these St. Dunstaners of Devon, my sincere thanks for all the kindness they showed to me during my stay in their beautiful county. This kindness I appreciate more than I can say, for it lets me feel that though I no longer have the opportunity to serve St. Dunstan's as in former days, I am still privileged in having and holding the friendship of its sons.—Faithfully yours,

NINA STEPHENSON-BROWNE.

16 Grove Road,  
St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

### St. Dunstan's Work for the Blind in India

SIXTEEN years ago, a St. Dunstaner, W. G. Speight, after training at St. Dunstan's, left this country for India to take up the position of Principal of the Church Missionary Society's Schools for the Blind at Palamcottah, in the Presidency of Madras. He has done wonderful work since then. Under his leadership hundreds of blind native children who would otherwise have been left in poverty and neglected have learnt to be self-supporting. Although there are 100,000 blind people in the Presidency of Madras, there are only two schools for the care and education of blind children. (To the Indian mind blindness is punishment for sin and should not be interfered with.) The Palamcottah School was the first and this was so successful that five years ago another school was founded in the city of Madras, modelled upon Speight's ideas.

Speight has just paid a short visit to England and it was a pleasure to meet him again at Headquarters. On Sunday, October 13th, he broadcast a most interesting talk on the National programme on "Work for the Blind in South India," in the course of which he described the way in which the blind native children, irrespective of caste, creed, or denomination, are taken into his School to receive a simple but good education, and later to be taught a useful occupation. Their training, however, is not all work. They play games and are taught to sing and to play musical instruments.

Concluding his talk, Speight said:—

"To sum up in a very few words, work for the blind is a labour wherein achievement is well defined as it is well worth doing.

Apart from the grants given by a generous and sympathetic Government, our work is entirely dependent upon the charity of the general public.

After living for twenty years in the world of darkness I am convinced that I am not only voicing my own feeling, but also that of the majority of blind people when I say that blindness comes as a heavy blow and remains as a serious handicap. Kindness and sympathy can, and do, lighten the path we tread, but they cannot remove all the obstacles and pitfalls with which it is beset. 'Every good gift, and every perfect

gift is from above.' Surely sight is the greatest and most perfect of these gifts and so great a gift should call forth gratitude from everyone who enjoys it. Surely also, it demands greatness in the thanksgiving. What is true greatness? I will answer that question in the words of an unknown poet which I read recently:—

"What is true greatness?

'Tis to clear

From sorrow's eye the glistening tear;

To comfort here, to cherish there;

To bless;

To aid, encourage, and to cheer!"

### Royal Buyers of St. Dunstan's Goods

AGAIN this year there is a stall showing the wide range of goods made by St. Dunstaners at the War-Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Exhibition which was opened at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, on November 8th.

Her Majesty the Queen, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who opened the Exhibition, and the Duke and Duchess of York have shown the greatest interest in our exhibit and have made several purchases. When the Prince of Wales visited the Exhibition, his first call was at our stand. He expressed his pleasure and approval of our nursery furniture, which is an important feature of this year's exhibit.

Describing the Exhibition, the *Birmingham Post* wrote.

"Nowhere is adaptability more evident than at St. Dunstan's stall. Blind men there display supremely dainty nursery furniture on which animals and birds are attractively painted. One can imagine a child's pleasure in these zoological chairs and tables."

### Another Press Tribute

THE machines used at Raglan Street in the construction of the nursery furniture have caused a good deal of interest, and on November 5th, the *Star* Man wrote in his Diary:—

"Marvels done by the blinded ex-servicemen at St. Dunstan's no longer surprise me, but I confess to a sinking feeling when I heard last evening that some of them work a circular saw.

"A circular saw and fretting machine have been installed at the workshops in Kentish Town, and they are entirely operated by men who lost their sight during the War twenty years ago.

"Every day you may see these men cutting up large pieces of plywood on the saw, and another man fretting out on a machine which revolves at 15,000 revolutions a minute.

"The secret lies in the guards. These have been specially devised by experts and the operator works in safety."

## SPORTS CLUB NOTES

### Tuesday Night Dance

There will be a Dance at Headquarters on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.

### Christmas Dance

The Christmas Dance will be held in the Lounge at Headquarters on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH.

### Swimming Gala

THE annual Swimming Gala was held at St. Marylebone Baths on Wednesday, October 30th. Out of the usual large entry, a number of "boys" were unfortunately prevented from attending owing to colds. Some very good racing was seen, the scratch man winning in both sections after a great struggle. An innovation was a race for the children of St. Dunstan's men who usually escort their fathers on practice nights. Miss Stacey very kindly presented a cup for this event and also a wristlet-watch for the runner up. Little Jean Rhodes won from Joan Ollington, swimming in great style.

Our thanks are due to the Bath Committee for their kindness in allowing us the use of the bath, to Mr. Ellis, the Bath Superintendent, a very old friend, for looking after us and afterwards presenting the prizes, to Mr. Miller for his gift of £2 towards the prize fund, and to Mr. Bloxham, for the canteen of cutlery which he gave for the winner in B. Section.

#### RESULTS.

SECTION B. (33 1/3 yds.)		SECTION A. (33 1/3 yds.)	
1st	W. Birchall	1st	H. Crabtree
2nd	W. Lacey	2nd	A. Peckham
3rd	J. McFarlane	3rd	W. Mellor
	1/2 yd.; 1 yd.		1 yd.; 1 yd.

#### GIRLS' RACE (SCRATCH).

(33 1/3 yds.)	
1st	Jean Rhodes
2nd	Joan Ollington
3rd	Mary Burran
4th	Peggy McFarlane
	1 yd.; 1/2 yd.; 1/2 yd.

#### PLUNGING.

	Hdcp.		Plunge		Total	
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.
F. Rhodes ...	12	28	5		40	5
W. Robinson	14	25	5		39	5
H. Morris ...	12	27	0		39	0
A. Peckham .	5	33	4		38	4
W. Mellor ...	7	32	9		37	9
W. Birchall ...	5	30	8		37	8
W. Lacey ...	3	32	1		35	1
J. McFarlane	scr.	29	5		29	5

### Miss Hodgson's Marriage

Miss Hodgson and the Rev. F. E. Spurway, whose engagement was announced in last month's REVIEW, were married at the church of St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, on Tuesday, October 29th.

### Concert at Headquarters

WE had a grand evening on Tuesday, November 5th, when Mrs. Lawrence Wright, who is the wife of Mr. Horatio Nichols, the song-writer, brought along many well-known B.B.C. artistes to entertain us. Most of the Air-do-Wells were there and Brian Michie acted as compere to the whole show. The artistes taking part were Mrs. Lawrence Wright, Effie Atherton, Margery Wyn, Margery Stedeford, Dorothy O'Dell, Hazel Shelly, Lance Fairfax, Wilfred Thomas, Denis O'Neil, Harry Hudson, Ronald Hill, Mario de Pietro, Claude Gardner, Theodore Guitta, Cavan O'Connor, Eric Barker, and Jimmy Bailey. To everybody's delight Mr. Horatio Nichols, who had come along too, played several of his most well-known songs.

### Press Cutting

From the *Evening News* October 31st :

Wonderful things in the way of athletics are done by the men of St. Dunstan's. I saw some of them swimming at St. Marylebone last night, and concluded it would not be easy to find a dozen men of their average age—between 40 and 50—who could beat them over the length of the bath.

H. Crabtree and Billy Birchall, the winners of the two races, would, I think, beat nine ordinary swimmers out of ten.

There were four competitors in one heat. They made excellent dives. A friend of each walked along the side to keep his man straight by shouting "Left, Frank!" or "Right, Frank!"—if Frank was his name.

Even so, keeping direction is difficult.

"Sound is coming all round you," said Bill Lacey, aged 51, to me, "though everybody keeps quiet for us. You can't help colliding sometimes. But it's great sport. You'll see us plunging. That's hard, you know, because you can't exactly gauge your dive so as to make it flat. I'd rather do a back somersault off the springboard myself."

That's how they talk. Their cheerfulness does one good.

Most of those I met last night are telephonists and Post Office shorthand typists. They have tall Sergeant-Major Tovell to look after their athletics—sculling, walking, and swimming. He is, I should think, the first Guards Sergeant-Major who would answer, civilly, to the name of "Bill."

I am told he keeps them in order, but he seemed such a good fellow I almost called him "Bill" myself.